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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *September* the 13th, 1753.

THE following letter is written with ſo much nature and ſimplicity, that, rather than curtail it of its length, I have thought proper (as I once did before) to extend my paper to another half-ſheet.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM the widow of a merchant, with whom I lived happily, and in affluence for many years. We had no children, and when he died he left me all he had; but his affairs were ſo involved, that the balance which I received, after having gone through much expence and trouble, was no more than one thouſand pounds. This ſum I placed in the hands of a friend of my huſband's, who was reckoned a good man in the city, and who allowed me an intereſt of four per cent for my capital; and with this forty pounds a year I retired and boarded in a village about a hundred miles from London.

THERE

THERE was an old lady of great fortune in that neighbourhood, who viſited often at the houſe where I lodged; ſhe pretended, after a ſhort acquaintance, to take a great liking to me; ſhe profeſſed a friendſhip for me, and at length perſuaded me to come and live with her.

BETWEEN the time of taking this my reſolution and putting it into execution, I was informed that this lady, whom I ſhall call lady Mary, was very unequal in her humours, and treated her inferiors and dependents with that inſolence which ſhe imagined her ſuperior fortune gave her a right to make uſe of.

BUT as I was neither her relation nor dependent, and as all that I deſired from her was common civility, I thought that whenever her ladyſhip or her houſe became diſagreeable to me, I could retire to my old quarters, and live in the ſame manner as I did before I became acquainted with her; and upon the ſtrength of this reaſoning I packed up my clothes, paid off my lodgings; and was conveyed by my lady Mary in her own coach to her manſion houſe.

FOR the firſt year ſhe treated me with civility and confidence; but in that time I could not help obſerving that ſhe had no affection for anybody. I found out that ſhe did not love her neareſt relations, who were highly eſteemed by all the reſt of the neighbourhood, and therefore I gave but little credit to all the proteſtations of friendſhip which ſhe was continually making to me.

SHE told me all that ſhe knew, and more than ſhe knew; and inſinuated to me, that I was to look upon the truſt ſhe repoſed in me as the ſtrongeſt proof of the higheſt friendſhip. But theſe inſinuations loſt their effect; for I knew by experience that there are many people, of which number her ladyſhip was one, that often have a need to unboſom themſelves, who muſt have ſomebody to impart their ſecrets to, and who, when they know any thing that ought not to be told, are never at eaſe till they tell it.

BUT to proceed in my ſtory. One day, when her ladyſhip had treated me with uncommon kindneſs, for my having taken her part in a diſpute with one of her relations, I received a letter from London to inform me that the perſon in whoſe hands I had placed my fortune, and who till that time had paid me my intereſt money very exactly, was broke and had fled the kingdom.

LADY

LADY Mary in her fits of friendſhip had offered me preſents, and perhaps the oftener, becauſe I always refuſed them. She had ſometimes told me how deſirous ſhe was to do me good in any thing that lay within her power. But in thoſe days I had the inexpreſſible happineſs of having no wiſh or view beyond what my little fortune could afford me, and I was truly ſenſible of, and bleſſed in, the heart-felt ſatisfaction of independence. Imagine then, ſir, what I felt at the receipt of the abovementioned letter. All I ſhall ſay to you about what it produced, is, that I took my reſolution immediately. I carried the letter in my hand to lady Mary; but before I gave it to her, I told her, that I had never doubted the ſincerity of the proteſtations of friendſhip which ſhe had often made me, and that I was thoroughly ſenſible of the kindneſs with which ſhe treated me. I put her in mind of the preſents which ſhe had offered me, and added, that while I was not in want of her aſſiſtance I thought it wrong to accept of them; but that the time was now come when her friendſhip was likely to become my only ſupport, which it would be unjuſt in me to ſuſpect that I ſhould not receive; that the letter I then gave her would tell her all and ſpare my tears.

HER ladyſhip immediately read it over with more attention than emotion: but after returning it to me, ſhe embraced me and aſſured me in a condoling voice, that however great my misfortunes might be, ſhe could not help feeling ſome ſatisfaction in thinking, that it was in her power to alleviate them, by giving me proofs of her unalterable friendſhip; that her houſe, her table, her ſervants ſhould always continue to be mine; that we ſhould never part while we lived, and that I ſhould feel no change in my condition from this unhappy alteration of my circumſtances.

To anybody that knew her ladyſhip leſs than I did, theſe words would have afforded matter of great conſolation; but when I retired to my chamber and reflected upon my paſt and preſent ſituation, I ſaw that I had every thing to regret in the one, and very little to hope from the other; and the following day convinced me of the manner in which I was to lead my future life.

WHENEVER lady Mary ſpoke to me, ſhe had hitherto called me Mrs. Truman; but the very next morning at breakfaſt ſhe left out Mrs.; and upon no greater provocation than breaking a tea cup, ſhe made me thoroughly ſenſible of her ſuperiority and my dependence.

" Lord,

"Lord, Truman, you are ſo aukward! Pray be more "careful for the future, or we ſhall not live long toge- "ther. Do you think I can afford to have my china "broke at this rate, and maintain you into the bargain?"

FROM this moment I was obliged to drop the name and character of friend, which I had hitherto maintained with a little dignity, and to take up that which the French call *complaiſante*, and the Engliſh *humble companion*. But it did not ſtop here; for in a week I was reduced to be as miſerable a TOAD-EATER as any in Great Britain, which in the ſtricteſt ſenſe of the word is a *ſervant*; except that a TOAD-EATER has the honour of dining with my lady, and the misfortune of receiving no wages.

THE beginning of my ſervitude was being employed in ſmall buſineſs in her ladyſhip's own preſence. Truman, fetch this; Truman, carry that; Truman, ring the bell; Truman, fill up the pot; Truman, pour out the coffee; Truman, ſtir the fire; Truman, call a ſervant; Truman, get me a glaſs of water, and put me in mind to take my drops.

THE ſecond part of my ſervice was harder. I was a good houſewife; I underſtood preſerving, pickling and paſtry, perfectly well; I was no bad milliner, and I was very well ſkilled in the management of a dairy. All theſe little talents I had frequently produced, ſometimes for my own amuſement, and ſometimes to make my court to my lady. But now what had been my diverſion became my employment: my lady could touch no ſweetmeat, pickle, tart or cheeſecake, but what was the work of my hands. I made up all her linen; I mended and ſometimes waſhed her lace; the butter ſhe eats every morning is all of my churning, and I make every ſlip-coat cheeſe that is brought to her table: and if any of theſe my various works miſcarry, I am ſcolded or pouted at, as much as if I was hired and paid for every branch of the different employments to which I am put.

THIS degradation of mine has not eſcaped the eyes of the quick-ſighted ſervants. The change of my ſituation has produced a total one in their behaviour. There is hardly a chambermaid that will bring me up a bottle of water into my room, or a footman that will fetch me a glaſs of ſmall beer at dinner.

I MUST now give you an account of certain regulations which I am enjoined to obſerve at table. I am abſolutely

abſolutely forbid to touch any diſh that is eatable cold as well as hot, or that may be haſhed for ſupper. By this I am prevented from eating of moſt diſhes that come before us. I muſt never taſte boiled or roaſt beef; and ham and veniſon paſty are equally contraband. Fowls, chickens, and all ſorts of game come under the article of prohibited goods; and though I ſee brawn and ſturgeon ſerved up every day during the whole winter, I am no more the better for them than Tantalus was for his apples; and really ſometimes I eat as little as thoſe who dine with duke Humphry, or as Sancho did when he was made governor of Barataria. To this I may add, that I have not taſted a glaſs of wine in our houſe for ſome years, and that punch, biſhop, cool tankard and negus are equally denied me, and I muſt never touch any fruit unleſs when I am to preſerve it.

THE rewards I receive for the ſervice I do, and the reſtraint which I ſubmit to, conſiſt in having the enjoyment of the meer neceſſaries of life, provided you exclude money out of the number. I am clothed out of lady Mary's wardrobe, and I have offended Mrs. Pinup, her ladyſhip's woman, paſt all forgiveneſs, becauſe my lady chuſes that I ſhould not go naked about the houſe.

NOT being much uſed to a coach, I am generally ſick with ſitting backwards in one. This my lady knows perfectly well; but ſince I entered into my ſtate of dependence, I am conſtantly obliged to let her ſit forwards alone in the daily airings that we take on the adjacent common.

YOU have already ſeen, ſir, that I do the work of moſt of the ſervants in the houſe: but I muſt now deſcend a little lower, and acquaint you with ſome more abject employments, which I am forced to ſubmit to.

I HAVE already hinted to you that my lady has no real friendſhip either for man or woman. Her affections are ſettled upon the brute creation, for whom ſhe expreſſes incredible tenderneſs. You would take her monkey to be her eldeſt ſon by the care ſhe ſhews of him; and ſhe could not be more indulgent to her favourite daughter than ſhe is to her lap-dog; ſhe has a real friendſhip for her parrot; and the other day ſhe expreſſed much more joy at the ſafe delivery of a beloved cat, than ſhe had done, ſome months before, at the birth of her grandſon.

IT is my province to tend, wait upon, and ſerve this favourite part of the family. I am made anſwerable for all their faults, and if any of them are ſick, it is I that am to blame. It was through my negligence that Pug broke my lady's fineſt ſet of china, and my forgetting to give Veny her dinner was the occaſion of the dear creature's illneſs. Poll's ſilence is often attributed to my ill uſage; and the murder of two or three kittens has been moſt unjuſtly laid to my charge.

I NOW come to ſome grievances of another kind, which I am almoſt aſhamed to own, but which are neceſſary to be told.

MY lady has, for her humour in her eyes (by the by I make all her eye water) three iſſues; one in each arm and one in her back. Now it happened that her own woman being one day confined to her bed, I was deſired to perform the operation of dreſſing them in her ſtead, and unfortunately I acquitted myſelf of the taſk ſo much to my lady's ſatisfaction, that Mrs. Pinup has been turned out of that office, which is given to me, and I am afraid it is a place for life.

THERE was another thing happened to me laſt year, which deſerves to be inſerted in this letter, and which, though it made me cry, will, I am afraid, make other people laugh.

LADY Mary, out of the few teeth ſhe has left, had one, that had the impudence to ake and keep her ladyſhip awake for two nights together; upon this, Mr. Mercy the ſurgeon was ſent for, who upon viewing the affected part declared immediately for extraction. This put my lady into a terrible agony; ſhe declared ſhe never had a tooth drawn in her life, and that ſhe never could be brought to undergo it, unleſs ſhe ſaw the ſame operation performed upon ſomebody elſe in her preſence. Upon this all the ſervants were ſummoned, and ſhe endeavoured to perſuade them one after another to have a tooth drawn for her ſervice; but they all refuſed, and choſe rather to loſe their places than their teeth. Lady Mary then addreſſed herſelf to me, and conjured me by the long friendſhip that had ſubſiſted between us, and by all the obligations I had already to her, and thoſe ſhe was determined to confer upon me, to grant her this requeſt. I bluſh to tell you that I yielded, and parted with a fine white ſound tooth: but what will you ſay when I alſo tell you, that after I had loſt mine, Mr. Mercy was at laſt ſent away without drawing her ladyſhip's?

LADY

LADY Mary takes great quantities of phyſic, and part of my buſineſs is to prepare and make up the doſes; but what is ſtill worſe, her ladyſhip will ſwallow nothing till I have taſted it in her preſence. I alſo make and adminiſter all the water gruel that ſhe drinks with her phyſic, and am forced to attend with her camomile tea, when ſhe takes a vomit. This laſt is hard duty, as it not only makes me conſtantly ſick, but as often ſtains my only gown and apron.

I HAVE now, ſir, done with all my bodily hardſhips, and ſhall proceed to a grievance, which lies heavier on me than all I have already mentioned; I mean that perpetual ſacrifice of truth, which I am forced to make for her ladyſhip's ſervice.

LADY Mary is about ſixty-five, and labours under a vice, which ſometimes perſons of the ſame ſex and age are ſubject to; I mean that of telling long and improbable ſtories. She has a fine invention, which often carries her beyond the bounds even of poſſibility. She deals largely in the marvelous, and whenever ſhe perceives that ſhe has made the company ſtare a little too much, ſhe conſtantly appeals to me for the truth of a fact which I never heard of before; but of which I am declared to have been an eye witneſs.

ANOTHER grievance is, that my lady being much the richeſt perſon in the neighbourhood, is thoroughly convinced that nobody of an inferior fortune can ever be in the right in any diſpute which may happen between them; and as her ladyſhip's arguments are generally very weak, ſo her paſſions are very ſtrong; and what ſhe wants in reaſon, ſhe makes up in anger, which ſometimes riſes to abuſe; and in all theſe diſputes, ſhe never fails to apply to me as an equitable judge, for my deciſion of the conteſt; which appeal being accompanied with one of colonel Hernando's looks, ſentence is immediately pronounced in her favour; for what can reaſon and argument do againſt fear and poverty? Theſe unjuſt judgments have made all the neighbours my enemies, who imagine alſo that by this behaviour of mine I muſt be highly in my lady's good graces; ſo that they hate what they ought to compaſſionate, and envy what they ſhould rather pity. It is the ſame caſe in every quarrel that happens between her ladyſhip and her own relations. I am made the witneſs and judge in every cauſe, and I own very freely that my teſtimony is generally falſe, and my judgment partial; ſo that upon the